

different perspectives of the health community, the hospital association, the health care association, and representatives from the Nebraska Catholic Conference, met extensively to try and work out amendments to that legislation. The amendments are embodied in the committee amendments and I believe provide a state of the art piece of legislation. So if we do find the advancement of LB 671 occurring, I am calling to your attention that I would try to see that the amendments were brought to the bill that would reflect the work that went into LB 696, and that part of 671 that deals with durable power of attorneys. Now I am not going to dwell much further on it but it seems to me that there is progress being made on this issue, the living will issue, the durable power of attorney's issue. Actually, the living will issue has been around quite sometime. We have done a number of studies. The issue was both before the Health Committee for awhile, before the Judiciary Committee. We have had it all the way to Final Reading, and then had it fail by two votes, and it seems to me that the movement on the durable power of attorney bill is a very positive sign that we recognize some action needs to occur in this area. It has been an area I have been working in for a long time and understand the very deep religious and moral convictions that are involved with the concern about living wills and some of the practical applications of the legislation. But, nevertheless, it seems to me that we recognize the fact that some sort of clarity has got to be brought to the issue, that we are under; for instance, LB 696, the durable power of attorney bill, authorizing that action, making it clear that it can be taken, that we will authorize individuals to designate a durable power of attorney to an individual to carry out their wishes should some health disaster occur, and I think that is good. I want to praise the different individuals and organizations that were involved in that issue. I know there is still a great deal of conflict on 671 but I, again, want to emphasize, I know we will be talking about the durable powers bill, that LB 696 is out. It is a Speaker priority. I don't know if we will get to it this session, but you can bring 671, and it will not impede or conflict with LB 696. They can be made compatible and I believe both issues probably ought to be on the floor and discussed. They are that important and I would hope that you would see that that action take place with this motion on 671.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature,